

REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on February 2, 2007, in which claims 21, 23-25, 27, 30, 32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kryder et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,011,664) ("Kryder"), claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryder, and claims 22, 28, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37-40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22, 28, 29, 31, 33-35, and 37-40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 21, 24-29

With this Amendment, independent claim 21 is amended to incorporate the features previously recited in dependent claim 22, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 24-29 depend from amended independent claim 21, and are therefore allowable therewith.

Claims 22 and 23

Dependent claims 22-23 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 30-32 and 35

With this Amendment, independent claim 30 is amended to incorporate the features previously recited in dependent claim 33, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, claim 30 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 31-32 and 35 depend from amended independent claim 30, and are therefore allowable therewith.

Claims 33-34

Dependent claim 33 has been canceled without prejudice to avoid redundancy with respect to amended independent claim 30. Dependent claim 34 has been canceled without prejudice to avoid redundancy with respect to new independent claim 41, which incorporates the limitations of claim 34.

Claims 36, 38-40

With this Amendment, independent claim 36 is amended to incorporate the features previously recited in dependent claim 37, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, claim 36 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 38-40 depend from amended independent claim 36, and are therefore allowable therewith.

Claims 37

Dependent claim 37 has been canceled without prejudice to avoid redundancy with respect to amended independent claim 36.

Claims 41-44

New independent claim 41 incorporates the features previously recited in independent claim 30 and dependent claim 34, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, claim 41 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 42-44 recite limitations recited originally in claims 31-32 and 35, respectively. Claims 42-44 depend from independent claim 41, and are therefore allowable therewith.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims 21, 24-32, 35-36, and 38-44 are in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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